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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-seventh session
9 June-3 July 1997
Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mrs. Sharon BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas)

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 7. Policy coordination and sustainable development

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 18 June 1997, the Committee considered section 7, Policy coordination and sustainable development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Most delegations reaffirmed the special importance they attached to the United Nations activities in the economic and sustainable development areas. Several delegations referred to the Secretary-General's plans to restructure the work of the Organization in the economic and social areas and sought clarification regarding the impact that it might have on the programme of work, on the relevant departments and entities and on the resources to carry out the mandated activities. Many delegations stressed the need to allocate an adequate level of resources to those areas of the work of the Organization.

3. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction for the scope of activities and commended the information provided under the proposed programme of work described in section 7. A number of delegations noted that a balanced distribution of resources among the subprogrammes was provided.

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4. Many delegations reiterated their strong support for the programme of work under subprogramme 2, Advancement of women, and welcomed the proposed additional resources related to the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Equality of Women. One delegation considered that incremental resources should be further justified. Some delegations requested clarification regarding the modalities of work and reporting between the Chief of the Department and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Equality of Women.

5. Some delegations felt that aspects of the programme of work such as the coordination capacity in the economic and social areas, follow-up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and non-governmental organizations were particularly important.

6. Some delegations emphasized the importance of the intergovernmental machinery serviced by the Department, and stressed in particular the need to provide full support for the servicing of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

7. One delegation suggested that at every session of the General Assembly the main debate should focus on a specially selected theme of high and long-term interest to Member States, with a view to adopting appropriate strategies and plans of action.

8. One delegation expressed concern about the content of the third sentence of paragraph 7.38. That delegation considered that the policy report of the Secretary-General should be prepared primarily on the basis of consultations with Member States. That delegation also considered that the other participants described in the above-mentioned paragraph could make some contribution.

9. One delegation proposed that the last sentence of paragraph 7.38 be deleted.

10. Another delegation proposed that, in the Spanish version:

(a) In paragraph 7.41 (a) (i) a. i., in the ninth line, the words "mentalidad y desarrollo" be replaced by the words "cultura y desarrollo";

(b) In paragraph 7.72, in the sixth line, the word "ecológicos" be replaced by "ambientales".

11. One delegation proposed that in paragraph 7.73, in the last sentence, the words "non-State actors" be deleted.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 7, Policy coordination and sustainable development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, subject to further consideration as stated in paragraph 35 of the introduction.